

The Ohio State University
Department of Rural Economics

Movement of Open Country Population in Two
Townships of Northwestern Ohio.

Rural Sociology
Mimeographs
No.3

Columbus, Ohio
January 1928

The Ohio State University
Department of Rural Economics

Movement of Open Country Population in Two
Townships of Northwestern Ohio.

Rural Sociology
Mimeographs
No.3

Columbus, Ohio
January 1928

Movement of Open Country Population in Ohio.
(Progress Report)

C. E. Lively
and
P. G. Beck

Department of Rural Economics
The Ohio State University

This report aims to make available the major results obtained from a study of the movement of open country population in two townships of Northwestern Ohio. The field work was done during the autumn and winter of 1926-7. A similar study is now being made in certain areas of northeast Ohio.

It is the purpose of these studies of population movement in unincorporated territory to arrive at an accurate knowledge of the quantitative and qualitative aspects of such movement. The rate of natural increase of the open country population, the extent of migration to and from the open country, the selective nature of the migration and the manner and circumstances under which the migration occurs, are all subjects which fall within the scope of these studies.

The available data on the status and movement of the rural population is still meagre. Previous to 1926, when Census Monograph VI, "Farm Population of the United States, 1920", was issued, it was impossible to obtain reliable statistics of the farm population on a national and state basis. There is still much to be desired in that direction.

A few studies of rural migration have been published(1). These have

(1) Gillette, J.M. "A Study in Social Dynamics, etc." American Statistical Association, Vol. 15: 363-8, 1916.

Hoag, Emily F. "The National Influence of a Single Farm Community, U.S.D.A. Bulletin 984, 1921.

Young, L.C. "The Movement of Farm Population" Cornell Agri.Exp.Station Bulletin 426, 1923.

been made from different points of view and pursued with varied methods of attack. The method herein used is that of the survey of areas representative of the major type conditions to be found in rural Ohio. The data thus gathered have been supplemented by available statistics from official sources.

The two townships herein discussed are Darby, located in southern Union County, and Liberty in southern Van Wert County. Both of these townships are representative of the better farming sections of the state. The average size of farms in Union County in 1925 was 100.7 acres, but the southern half of Darby township lies in the Darby Creek "plains" where farms are larger than the average. The mean size of farm for the township according to the survey was 136 acres. Liberty township is rather typical of Van Wert county where the average size of farm in 1925 was 96.1 acres.

Both townships fall within the corn-hogs belt of the state. In Darby township, which lies within a few miles of the metropolitan district of Columbus, considerable dairying and poultry have been introduced into the northern part. Here the farms are family-size and tenants few. In the southern half where the rich soil makes corn, hogs, wheat and oats the principal crops, farms are larger and tenants more numerous. The per cent of tenancy for the township was 33.5.

In Liberty township dairying and poultry are also being developed. Wheat is a less important crop than in Darby, but oats is more important. The percentage of tenancy for the township was 41.5.

I. Population Growth and Decline.

Farm population in Ohio has declined both relatively and absolutely over the period for which figures are available. The farm population in 1925 was 1,031,718 persons as compared with 1,139,329 persons in 1920, a decrease of

approximately 107,000 persons for the five year period. This decrease should be discounted slightly since farm laborers were included in the 1920 enumeration and not in the 1925 enumeration. It is estimated that at the present time the farm population of Ohio comprises about 16 per cent of the total as against 20 per cent in 1920 and 26 per cent in 1910.

Table I. Open(1) Country Population of the Areas Studied, 1840 - 1927(2)

Area	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1927
Union County	736	881	1269	1142	971	945	980	981	950	842
Van Wert "	117	424	930	1174	1553	1717	1650	1517	1307	1126
Both Areas	853	1305	2199	2316	2524	2662	2630	2498	2257	1968

(1) Outside incorporated places.

(2) Figures for 1840-1920 computed from Bureau of the Census figures: 1927 from survey of the areas.

Table II. Percentage Increase Over Previous Decade of Population of Areas Studied - 1850 to 1927

Area	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1927*
Union County	19.7	44.0	-10.0	-15.0	-2.7	3.7	0.0	-3.2	-11.4
Van Wert "	262.3	219.3	26.2	32.3	10.6	-3.9	-8.1	-13.8	-13.8
Both Areas	53.0	57.6	5.3	9.0	5.5	-1.2	-5.0	-9.6	-12.0

* Seven year period, only.

The two areas differ somewhat in the matter of population increase.

The Union county area was settled earlier than the Van Wert area, and showed a marked decrease in population following the Civil War. The Van Wert area showed a very marked change in rate of increase immediately following the Civil War. The Union county area showed an increase in 1900 and did not begin to lose population until after 1910. The decrease from 1910 to 1920 was but 3.2 per cent while the decrease from 1920 to 1927 was 11.4 per cent, a decrease in seven years

almost equal to four times the decrease in the previous decade.

On the other hand the Van Wert area showed a decrease in the census of 1900, and since that time has been losing population at an increasing rate. Taken together the two areas showed a decrease of 12 per cent from 1920 to 1927. The state decrease in farm population for 1920 to 1925 was between 9 and 10 per cent. Assuming the decrease for the state to be uniform the decrease for the Van Wert area was about the same as that for the state, while that of the Union area was below that of the state as a whole.

II. Composition and Characteristics of the Population.

Table III. Number of Families and Persons in the Areas, January 1, 1927.

	Both Areas	Union County	Van Wert County
Number families visited	465	203	262
Number persons in families visited	1936	818	1118
Number families in the area	473	209	264
Estimated total population	1968	842	1126

Of the 473 families in the area, 465 were interviewed. The average size of the household for the Union county area was 4.0 persons and for the Van Wert county area 4.3 persons.

Table IV. Tenure and Occupation of the Families in the Areas.

Occupation or Tenure	Both Areas		Union County		Van Wert County	
	F	P	F	P	F	P
Total	465	1936	203	818	262	1118
Farmers	391	1626	165	659	226	967
Owner	259	1022	114	444	145	578
Renter	132	604	51	215	81	389
Laborers	45	196	28	115	17	81
Farm	31	131	22	92	9	39
Other	14	65	6	23	8	42
Others	29	114	10	44	19	70
Teacher	4	18	4	18	0	0
Minister	2	14	2	14	0	0
Gen'l storekeeper	2	13	1	6	1	7
Feed & coal dealer	1	2	1	2	0	0
Milk route driver	1	3	1	3	0	0
Co.Supt. Schools	1	1	1	1	0	0
Garage owner	2	10	0	0	2	10
Mail carrier	2	9	0	0	2	9
Freight Agent	2	9	0	0	2	9
Butcher shop keeper	1	3	0	0	1	3
Blacksmith	1	2	0	0	1	2
Drayman (truck)	2	6	0	0	2	6
Salesman	2	6	0	0	2	6
Drug store keeper	1	3	0	0	1	3
Huckster	1	2	0	0	1	2
All Others	4	13	0	0	4	13

Table IV shows the number of families found in each occupation and tenure group and the number of persons in each group of families. Approximately 84 per cent of the families were farm operators and 7 per cent farm laborers making a total of 91 per cent of the families in the areas engaged in farming. The remaining 9 per cent were scattered among many occupations as the table shows. These figures varied somewhat for the two areas but there were no significant differences. The Union county area had about 8 per cent in occupations other than farming while the Van Wert county area had 10 per cent. Eighty per cent of

the families in the Union county area were farm operators while 86 per cent of those of the other area fell into the farm operator group. These differences were due to the larger number of farm laborer families in the Union county area. Examination of the status of these laborers showed many of them to be sons of farmers in the area who in time would probably own the home farm. Others were employed on the group of large fertile farms in the "Darby plains" section of this area. On these large farms were found from one to two farm laborers and their families in addition to the operator and his family. The farms were not so large in Van Wert county and few farm laborers were found who had permanent residence on the farm.

Table V. Cumulative Percentage Distribution of Place of Residence of Heads of Families at Time of Marriage

Place of residence at time of marriage	Male - Percentage								
	Owner			Renter			Others		
	Union	Van	Total	Union	Van	Total	Union	Van	Total
	Wert	Wert		Wert	Wert		Wert	Wert	
Total Group	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
United States	99	100	99	100	100	100	97	96	97
Ohio	99	99	99	92	97	95	76	96	86
Same county	86	77	80	74	84	79	50	87	68
Same area	71	62	66	64	55	58	39	78	58
	Female - Percentage								
	Owner			Renter			Others		
	Union	Van	Total	Union	Van	Total	Union	Van	Total
	Wert	Wert		Wert	Wert		Wert	Wert	
Total Group	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
United States	99	100	99	100	100	100	97	99	97
Ohio	98	96	97	89	95	93	73	99	86
Same county	79	73	77	67	78	74	46	81	64
Same area	60	44	52	51	42	45	28	69	48

Inspection of Table V indicates some differences among the groups as to their place of residence immediately previous to marriage. Since marriage appears

to be the most frequent event coincident with the leaving of the parental home by the youth of these areas, this table gives us a kind of answer to the question, "From whence came the persons who now operate the farms in these areas?".

More wives of operators than operators came from outside the area in which they now live. This held for each area and for each group in the areas. One reason is the fact that the "home" farm was more often taken over by the son than by the daughter.

Noticeable differences exist between the areas, more of the operators and their wives from the Van Wert area having come from outside the area than was the case in the Union county area. This difference is explained by the nature of the population of the two areas. The people of the Union county area are largely of German descent, belong to the same religious organization and possess mores that frown on marriage outside the church organization. It is a community in which there are blood ties between the majority of the people. The reverse of this situation exists in the Van Wert area. Very little community organization is evident and there is no one church or other organization strong enough to hold a majority of the people as is the case in Union county.

Of those persons who at marriage lived outside the county in which they lived at the time of the survey, the majority came from adjoining or nearby counties. Those who came into the areas from greater distances came from scattered sources; there was no evidence to support the contention that the migrants to these areas came from certain definite sections of the state. Proximity seemed to be the largest factor. Most of those who were farming in these areas in 1927 had always farmed under similar conditions in nearby localities.

Table VI. Number and Per Cent of Families Who Had Always Lived on Same Farm, in Same Area, in Same County: - By Occupation and Tenure.

Always lived in:	Number Families								
	Owner			Renter			Others		
	Union	Van Wert	Total	Union	Van Wert	Total	Union	Van Wert	Total
Total Group	114	145	259	51	81	132	38	36	74
Same county	103	123	226	40	60	100	23	30	53
Same area	91	86	177	35	40	75	18	26	44
Same farm	46	33	79	25	21	46	7	9	16
Percentage Distribution									
Total Group	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Same county	90	85	87	78	74	76	61	83	71
Same area	80	59	68	69	49	57	47	72	59
Same farm	40	23	31	49	26	35	18	25	21

More farm owners than renters were found to have lived in the same (area) township since marriage. (These figures apply only to families as a whole). Eighty-seven per cent of the owner families and 76 per cent of the renter families had always lived in the same county. Examination of the figures for time spent on the farm which they now occupy showed that more renter families than owner families had always lived on the same farm. The renters in each area were a much younger group than the owners (See Table VII). Since in this table no account is taken of the number of years spent on the farm, the fact that many of the renters had been married but a short time and thus had had a lower probability of moving, prejudiced the results here. It is clearly indicated by the figures for number of families who have always lived in the same area and in the same county, that mobility is greater among renters than among owners. If the renters were of the same mean age as the owners the figures would probably show a greater difference.

Table VII. Age and Distribution of Farm Operators* - By Tenure

Age	Union			Van Wert			Both Areas		
	Owner	Renter	Both	Owner	Renter	Both	Owner	Renter	Both
20-29	7	22	29	3	17	20	10	39	49
30-39	20	16	36	23	28	51	43	44	87
40-49	23	7	30	31	26	57	54	33	87
50-59	25	5	30	33	7	40	58	12	70
60-69	17	0	17	22	2	24	39	2	40
70-79	7	0	7	2	1	3	9	1	10
Total	99	50	149	114	81	195	213	131	344
Mean	49.5	34.1	44.3	49.1	38.5	44.7	49.2	36.8	44.5
Median	49.8	31.9	43.3	50.0	38.6	44.7	50.0	36.1	44.1

* Includes only male operators; no retired farmers.

While the age distribution of the owner-operators was quite normal that of the renters showed larger numbers in the younger age groups. Forty-four per cent of the renters in the Union county area were under 30 years of age. For the group as a whole (both areas) less than 5 per cent of the owners and about 30 per cent of the renters were under 30. The renters in the Union county area had a lower mean age than those of the Van Wert county area.

Table VIII. Relationship of Renter to Owner.

	Total		Union		Van Wert	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Total	132	100	51	100	81	100
No Relation	62	47	18	35	44	54
Related	70	53	33	65	37	46
Son	51	39	26	51	25	31
Son-in-law	16	12	5	10	11	14
Other Relation	3	2	2	4	1	1

This was due largely to the fact that most of the renters in the Union county area were the sons of the present owners of the farms. More of the renters in the Van Wert area were older men of no kinship to the owners of the farms, and many of them appeared to have no intention of buying a farm. They approached what might be called a renting class. The renters of the Union county area were young persons who were renters only for the time, using tenancy as a step in acquiring the ownership of the farm on which they were located. The steps in the so-called "agricultural ladder" were quite evident in this area with its closely-knit community organization, based on kinship, nationality and church affiliation.

Table IX. Sex and Age Distribution by Tenure, Union County Area.

Age	Total Group			Owners			Renters			All Others		
	M	F	Both	M	F	Both	M	F	Both	M	F	Both
Under 1 year	11	12	23	3	3	6	3	6	9	5	3	8
Under 2 years	20	21	41	8	5	13	6	10	16	1	3	4
Under 5 years	60	48	108	20	12	32	24	23	47	16	13	29
5 - 9 "	40	37	77	19	20	39	8	12	20	13	5	18
10 - 14 "	35	37	72	18	22	40	9	9	18	8	6	14
15 - 19 "	35	43	78	26	28	54	4	9	13	5	6	11
20 - 24 "	39	33	72	20	14	34	8	8	16	11	11	22
25 - 29 "	36	34	70	8	13	21	19	14	33	9	7	16
30 - 34 "	20	25	45	8	12	20	7	10	17	5	3	8
35 - 39 "	26	27	53	16	16	32	9	6	15	1	5	6
40 - 44 "	22	25	47	13	16	29	6	6	12	3	3	6
45 - 49 "	15	22	37	12	17	29	1	2	3	2	3	5
50 - 54 "	24	16	40	15	13	28	4	2	6	5	1	6
55 - 59 "	17	14	31	13	11	24	2	1	3	2	2	4
60 - 64 "	13	15	28	11	11	22	0	2	2	2	2	4
65 - 69 "	19	12	31	14	9	23	2	3	5	3	0	3
70 - 74 "	10	5	15	7	2	9	1	0	1	2	3	5
75 - 79 "	7	2	9	3	1	4	2	1	3	2	0	2
80 - 84 "	2	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
85 & over "	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Total	421	396	817	225	218	443	107	108	215	89	70	159

Table X. Sex and Age Distribution by Tenure, Van Wert County Area.

Age	Total Group			Owners			Renters			All Others		
	M	F	Both	M	F	Both	M	F	Both	M	F	Both
Under 1 year	11	2	13	1	0	1	8	2	10	2	0	2
Under 2 years	20	9	29	4	2	6	13	5	18	3	2	5
Under 5 years	55	38	93	16	15	31	32	18	50	7	15	12
5 - 9 "	65	65	130	19	30	49	29	28	57	17	7	24
10 - 14 "	82	73	155	43	35	78	30	25	55	9	13	22
15 - 19 "	65	63	128	42	38	80	18	16	34	5	9	14
20 - 24 "	40	30	70	27	10	37	10	16	26	3	4	7
25 - 29 "	27	21	48	8	5	13	15	13	28	4	3	7
30 - 34 "	27	36	63	10	19	29	16	13	29	1	4	5
35 - 39 "	37	45	82	16	18	34	12	19	31	9	8	17
40 - 44 "	35	30	65	16	18	34	18	11	29	1	1	2
45 - 49 "	27	27	54	15	15	30	9	6	15	3	6	9
50 - 54 "	28	29	57	18	22	40	4	4	8	6	3	9
55 - 59 "	33	22	55	22	20	42	5	2	7	6	0	6
60 - 64 "	25	20	45	23	15	38	2	3	5	0	2	2
65 - 69 "	18	13	31	10	7	17	4	2	6	4	4	8
70 - 74 "	10	8	18	7	5	12	1	1	2	2	2	4
75 - 79 "	8	2	10	6	1	7	1	1	2	1	0	1
80 - 84 "	5	3	8	3	2	5	1	1	2	1	0	1
85 & over	2	4	6	0	2	2	1	2	3	1	0	1
Total	589	529	1118	301	277	578	208	181	389	80	71	151

Table XI. Percentage Age Distribution by Sex;- Both Areas.

[illegible]

Table XII. Cumulated Percentage Age Distribution, by Sex; Both Areas.

Age at or more than:-	Both counties			Union county			Van Wert County		
	M	F	Both	M	F	Both	M	F	Both
0 years	100.0	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
5 "	88.7	90.6	89.5	86.8	87.8	86.8	90.6	92.8	91.6
10 "	78.3	79.5	78.8	76.3	78.5	77.4	79.6	80.5	79.9
15 "	66.7	67.6	67.1	68.0	69.2	68.6	65.7	66.7	66.0
20 "	56.8	56.0	56.5	59.7	58.3	59.1	54.7	54.8	54.6
25 "	49.0	49.2	49.2	50.4	50.0	50.3	47.9	49.1	48.3
30 "	42.8	43.3	43.1	41.8	41.4	41.7	43.3	45.1	44.0
35 "	38.1	36.7	37.5	37.0	35.1	36.2	38.7	38.4	38.4
40 "	31.9	28.9	30.5	30.8	28.3	29.7	32.4	29.9	31.1
45 "	26.3	23.0	24.7	25.6	22.0	23.9	26.5	24.3	25.3
50 "	22.1	17.7	20.0	22.1	16.4	19.4	21.9	19.2	20.5
55 "	17.0	13.0	15.0	16.4	12.4	14.5	17.1	13.7	15.4
60 "	12.0	9.1	10.6	12.4	8.9	10.6	11.5	9.6	10.5
65 "	8.2	5.3	6.8	9.3	5.1	7.2	7.3	5.8	6.5
70 "	4.0	2.6	3.6	4.8	2.1	3.4	4.2	3.3	3.7
75 "	2.0	1.2	1.9	2.4	0.8	1.6	2.5	1.8	2.1
80 "	1.0	0.8	0.9	.7	0.3	0.5	1.1	1.4	1.2
85 "	0.3	0.5	0.4	.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.5

Tables VIII - XII together with Charts II and III give a picture of the age and sex distribution of the population of the two areas. Comparison of the age distribution of the two areas, Charts II and III, shows significant differences. The Van Wert county area had heavy losses of population due to migration in the 20-39 year age groups. In Table I it will be seen that the large decline in the population of this area began after 1890 and became most pronounced after 1910. This exodus resulted in fewer children in the 5 to 10 year age group, since those persons who left were in some cases the parents, in some cases the future parents of the children of this particular group at this date. Thus there was a smaller percentage of children under 10 than in the 10 to 19 year group.

In the Union county area little decrease in population has taken place in recent years except since 1920. Thus the age distribution was very nearly that of a stationary population.

Table XIII. Age Distribution - All Families, Including All Children
Who Had Migrated from the Areas. Both Counties by Sex.

Age Group	Union County			Van Wert County			Both Counties		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Under 5	60	48	108	55	38	93	115	86	201
5 - 9	40	37	77	65	65	130	105	102	207
10 - 14	35	37	72	82	73	155	117	110	227
15 - 19	35	43	78	69	73	142	104	116	220
20 - 24	50	55	105	69	64	133	119	119	238
25 - 29	51	52	103	60	61	121	111	113	224
30 - 34	37	41	78	53	67	120	90	108	198
35 - 39	38	34	72	52	73	125	90	107	197
40 - 44	32	33	65	48	41	89	80	74	154
45 - 49	18	23	41	38	33	71	56	56	112
50 - 54	24	16	40	30	30	60	54	46	100
55 - 59	17	14	31	34	22	56	51	36	87
60 - 64	13	15	28	25	21	46	38	36	74
65 - 69	19	12	31	18	13	31	37	25	62
70 - 74	10	5	15	10	8	18	20	13	33
75 - 79	7	2	9	8	2	10	15	4	19
80 - 84	2	0	2	5	3	8	7	3	10
85 & over	1	1	2	2	4	6	3	5	8
Total	489	468	957	723	691	1414	1212	1159	2371

Had all of the children born to the families found in the two areas stayed in the area of their birth, the age distribution of the population would have followed that found in Table XIII rather than that of Tables VIII and IX. As a theoretical age distribution, assuming no migration Table XII would be more complete if it also included all children born to those persons who have migrated from the areas. This item is not available, however. Charts IV and V show the age pyramids of the population found in the areas (Tables VIII and IX), and in addition show how the pyramids would have appeared had all of the children born to the families living in the area, stayed there. If to this were added the children born to those who have left the areas, doubtless the base of the pyramid would be more complete.

"According to Sundbarg* one of the striking features of normal age distribution is the fact that about one-half of the population are between 15 and 50 years of age. He distinguishes three types of age distribution. The first in the Progressive Type, the second the Stationary Type, and the third, The Regressive Type. These are illustrated by the following typical groupings:

Table XIV. Theoretical Types of Population Based on Age Distribution.

Age	Per cent of population		
	Progressive	Stationary	Regressive
0 - 14	40	33	20
15 - 49	50	50	50
50 & over	10	17	30

"It will be noticed that in all cases the proportion of middle-age persons is the same, and that the classification depends upon the proportion of persons under 15 years of age to those more than 50 years of age." If the percentage of persons between 15 and 50 years of age is much less than 50 it indicates that the population has lost by emigration; if the percentage of persons between 15 and 50 years of age is greater than 50 it indicates that there has been accessions to the population by immigration.

Table XV. Age Distribution of Population According to Theoretical Types

Age	Per Cent of Population		
	Both Areas	Union Area	Van Wert Area
0 - 14	33	32	34
15 - 49	47	49	46
50 & over	20	19	20

* Whipple, C.G., Vital Statistics, pp. 189 - 190.

Comparison of the age distribution of the two areas studied with these type distributions indicates that these areas represent a stationary type of population with some emigration. The amount of emigration from the Van Wert area is considerably greater than that from the Union area, however, as it had but 46 per cent of the population between 15 and 30 years of age as compared with 49 per cent in the Union area.

The Van Wert area also had a larger percentage of persons under 15 years of age than the Union area. This in spite of the dearth of children under 5 years in this area.

Table XVI. Per Cent of Heads of Families by Sex, Occupation and Tenure, who had Parents in Each
Occupation Group: Both Areas

Occupations of heads of families		Grand Total	Farmer	Occupation of Parents					Profes- sional	Occupation Unknown
				Total	Farm	Laborer Skilled	Other	Business		
Male - Percentage										
Total Group	100	94	3	2	1	*	*	1	2	
Owner	100	96	1	*	*	*	*	*	2	
Renter	100	96	3	1.5	1.5	0	1	0	0	
All other	100	80	9	5	3	1	1	3	7	
Female - Percentage										
Total Group	100	87	8	2	4	2	2	1	2	
Owner	100	92	5	*	3	2	*	*	2	
Renter	100	82	12	4	6	2	3	3	0	
All other	100	77	12	4	5	3	4	1	6	
Male and Female - Percentage										
Total Group	100	90	6	2	3	1	1	1	2	
Owner	100	94	3	*	2	1	*	*	2	
Renter	100	89	7	3	3	1	3	2	2	
All other	100	78	10	4	4	2	3	2	7	

* Less than 1 per cent.

Ninety-four per cent of the male heads of families were the sons of farmers, most of them the children of farm owners. Ninety-six per cent of the male farmers were sons of farmers. Only 87 per cent of the female heads of families were the daughters of farmers, however. Hence, it may be concluded in these areas females from families in occupations other than farming enter the farmer group by way of marriage more often than males come into farming from other occupational backgrounds.

III. Geographic and Occupational Distribution of the Children Born to Families Now Living in the Areas.

Table XVII. Number of Children Born to Families Living in the Areas:
Number Living and Number Living with Parents - All Ages.

Children	Union County				Van Wert County			
	Total	Owner	Renter	Other	Total	Owner	Renter	Other
Born	651	408	115	138	990	617	253	120
Living	611	377	110	124	907	560	234	113
At parental home	392	211	100	81	546	278	202	66
*Away from parental home	219	166	10	43	361	282	32	47
	Both Areas							
	Number				Per Cent			
Born	1641	1025	368	258	---	---	---	---
Living	1518	937	344	237	100	100	100	100
At parental home	938	489	302	147	62	52	88	64
*Away from parental home	580	448	42	90	38	48	12	36

* Does not check with number who had started for themselves, Table XVIII, since 51 persons who had started for themselves made their home with their parents.

Since all ages were included in this distribution one cannot compare directly the different tenure groups. The parents of the renter group were much younger than those of the owner group, as shown in Table XVIII.

Table XVIII. Percentage Location of Children 18 Years of Age and Over
With Reference to Parental Home:- Both Areas, by Sex.

Location	Total			Union County						All Other		
	M	F	Both	Owner			Renter			M	F	Both
Total group	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
At parental home	32	25	29	30	27	29	*	*	*	33	12	23
Away from parental home	68	75	71	70	73	71	*	*	*	67	88	77
Van Wert County												
At parental home	27	19	23	26	18	22	*	*	*	17	9	14
Away from parental home	73	81	77	74	82	78	*	*	*	83	91	86
Both Counties												
At parental home	29	21	25	27	22	24	53	32	43	25	11	19
Away from parental home	71	79	75	73	78	76	47	68	57	75	89	81

*Number of cases too small to be significant.

Table XVIII conveys a better notion of the extent of the migration of children from the parental home. A smaller percentage of the children 18 years of age and over were at home in the Van Wert than in the Union county area. Because of the earlier age at which females marry fewer females than males 18 years of age and over were found living with their parents. The average age at marriage was 20.5 years for females and 22.6 years for males. Seventy-three per cent of the females were dependent upon the parents for support until marriage as compared with 47 per cent of the males.

Table XIX. Age at Marriage and at Time of Starting for Self, for
631 Children, by Sex.

Average	*Age at starting for self			Age at marriage		
	Union	Van Wert	Total	Union	Van Wert	Total
Median						
Male	21.8	21.1	21.3	22.9	21.9	22.7
Female	20.2	19.7	19.8	20.8	20.1	20.4
Mean						
Male	21.2	20.3	20.8	21.7	23.6	22.6
Female	20.6	19.6	19.9	21.4	20.2	20.5

*"Starting for Self" means here the age at which the child ceased to be dependent upon the parental family.

The mean age at starting life for themselves was 19.9 years for the females and the age at marriage 20.5, a difference of 0.6 years. The same figures for the males were 20.8 and 22.6, respectively, a difference of 1.8 years. Since it was assumed in every case that dependence upon the parental home ceased at marriage (a study of the individual cases justifies this assumption in all but a few cases), the above figures indicate the relatively greater incidence of marriage as a step in leaving home in the case of the females.

Marriage occurred later in life in the Union county area according to the figures in Table XIX. This was probably due to the persistence of the patriarchal traditions among the German speaking residents of this area. The age distribution at marriage reflects this fact; the modal age for marriage for males was 21 while that for females was 18, the ages at which males and females respectively became (until recently) legally independent of parental control. The parents apparently exerted greater control over their children in the Union county area than in the Van Wert area. Until a boy was 21 he left the parental roof at the risk of being disinherited.

A complete record was obtained of the location at the time of the survey of those children born to the families found in the areas. Table XX shows the distance of their migration from the parental home.

Table XX. Distance of Children who Have Started for Themselves from Parental Home, by Place of Residence.

Miles from parental home	Number							
	Union County				Van Wert County			
	Total	Open Country	Village	City	Total	Open Country	Village	City
Under 10	145	110	12	23	230	156	47	27
10 & under 20	40	11	2	27	24	15	3	6
20 & under 40	1	0	0	1	47	1	3	43
40 & under 60	7	1	0	6	9	1	1	7
60 & under 80	1	1	0	0	7	0	0	7
80 & under 100	1	0	0	1	18	2	1	15
100 & under 120	4	1	0	3	10	0	0	10
120 & under 140	3	0	0	3	7	1	1	5
140 & under 160	1	0	0	1	8	0	2	6
160 & under 200	1	0	0	1	18	0	2	16
200 & under 500	5	2	0	3	6	0	0	6
500 & over	20	6	0	14	18	8	0	10
Total Number	229	132	14	83	402	184	60	158
Per cent	100	58	6	36	100	46	15	39

A larger percentage of the children from the Union county area remained in the open country than of those from the Van Wert area. The percentage living in cities varied but little between the two areas. It will be noted that in both areas 92 per cent of those children who had remained in the open country had established residence within 20 miles of the parental home. This included most of those who remained in the open country. Of those who remained in the open country, 84 per cent in the Union area and 80 per cent in the Van Wert area were farming. Those who went greater distances from home usually went into occupations other than farming and were found living in cities

Table XXI. Number and Per Cent of Children Who Had Started for Them-
selves who Lived at or Less than Specified Distances
from the Parental Home.

Distance in miles Less than:	Number of Children			Per cent of Children		
	Total	Union	Van Wert	Total	Union	Van Wert
10	375	145	230	59	63	57
20	439	185	254	70	80	63
40	487	186	301	77	81	75
60	503	193	310	80	83	77
80	511	194	317	81	84	79
100	530	195	335	84	84	83
120	544	199	345	86	86	86
140	554	202	352	87	87	87
160	563	203	360	89	88	89
200	582	204	378	92	88	94
500	593	209	384	93	90	95
1000	606	220	386	96	96	96

About 84 per cent of the children born to the families living within the areas, were living within 100 miles of the parental home. Differences between the two areas occurred for those who lived within a 100 mile radius. Eighty per cent of those in the Union area lived within 20 miles of the parental home as compared with 63 per cent for the Van Wert area.

Table XXII. Grade in School Finished by Children who had Started for Themselves by Occupation Followed(1)

Occupation	Grade in School Finished					Total
	Under 8th	8th Grade	9 - 10	11 - 12	13 or more	
	Union County Area					
*Farmer	8	38	1	6	1	54
Owner	2	12	1	2	0	17
Renter	3	18	0	3	1	25
Laborer	3	2	0	0	0	5
Others	0	6	0	1	0	7
Laborer	4	24	8	4	1	41
Skilled	1	3	5	1	0	10
Other	3	21	3	3	1	31
Clerical	0	2	1	0	2	5
Professional	0	0	0	0	9	9
Entrepreneur	0	2	0	0	2	4
Executive	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salesman	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	12	56	11	10	15	114
Per Cent	11%	58%	10%	8%	13%	100%
Van Wert County Area.						
*Farmer	1	59	5	5	2	72
Owner	0	15	1	1	0	17
Renter	1	29	2	3	2	37
Laborer	0	12	2	0	0	14
Other	0	3	0	1	0	4
Laborer	3	70	7	13	0	93
Skilled	0	13	1	2	0	16
Other	3	57	6	11	0	77
Clerical	0	3	1	5	1	10
Professional	0	1	0	0	3	4
Entrepreneur	0	5	0	0	0	5
Executive	0	2	0	0	1	3
Salesman	0	0	0	2	1	3
Retired	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	4	141	13	25	8	191
Per Cent	20%	74%	7%	13%	4%	100%
Both Areas						
*Farmer	9	97	6	11	3	126
Owner	2	27	2	3	0	34
Renter	4	47	2	6	3	62
Laborer	3	14	2	0	0	19
Others	0	9	0	2	0	11
Laborer	7	94	15	17	1	134
Skilled	1	16	6	3	0	26
Other	6	78	9	14	1	108
Clerical	0	5	2	5	3	15
Professional	0	1	0	0	12	13
Entrepreneur	0	7	0	0	2	9
Executive	0	2	0	0	1	3
Salesman	0	0	1	2	1	4
Retired	0	1	0	0	0	1
Grand Total	19	207	24	35	23	305
Per cent	5%	68%	8%	11%	8%	100%

(1) Includes only those who had assigned occupation; does not include married women not working outside household.

*Includes here all persons operating or working on farms.

Table XXIII. Relation of "Grade in School Finished", to Farm and Non-Farming Occupation: For Children who Had Started for Themselves by Areas.*

Occupation	Total		Under 9th Grade		9th Grade or more	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
<u>Union County</u>						
Farm	54	47	46	59	8	22
Non-farm	60	53	32	41	28	78
Laborer	41	36	28	36	13	36
Other	19	17	4	5	15	42
Total	114	100	78	100	36	100
<u>Van Wert County.</u>						
Farm	72	38	60	41	12	26
Non-farm	119	62	85	59	34	74
Laborer	90	47	70	48	20	43
Other	29	15	15	11	14	31
Total	191	100	145	100	46	100
<u>Both Areas.</u>						
Farm	126	41	106	47	20	24
Non-farm	179	59	117	53	62	76
Laborer	131	43	98	44	33	40
Other	48	16	19	9	29	36
Total	305	100	223	100	82	100

* Includes only those who had assigned occupation; does not include married women not working outside household.

Table XXIV. Per Cent of Children Who Had Started for Themselves Finishing Different Grades in School: By Occupation.

Grade in School	Grand Total	Farm	Non-Farm		
			Total	Labor	Other
Less than 9th	76	84	65	75	40
Ninth or more	24	16	35	25	60
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Of the 631 children who had started for themselves 305 had assigned occupations. (Most of the others were married women with no occupation other than homemaker). Of these 305 persons, 126 were on farms, 105 as operators and 19 as laborers; 134 were classed as laborers, 108 as unskilled laborers and 26 as skilled laborers (trades); the remaining 45 were chiefly in business for themselves in clerical work, in the professions (teacher, minister, lawyer, etc) or were salesmen. Stated in percentages, 83 per cent of those engaged in farming were farm operators and 17 per cent laborers; of those in occupations other than farming 75 per cent were laborers (60 per cent unskilled, 15 per cent skilled), leaving 25 per cent in the various other non farming occupations listed.

All children of families living in the areas, who had an assigned occupation, were listed in Tables XIX and XX. It will be seen that 76 per cent of those children who had more than an eighth grade education (Table XIX) left the farm for other occupations. Of this 76 per cent, 40 per cent were laborers of various sorts while the remaining 36 per cent were engaged in business for themselves or were in the professions. A large per cent of the latter were teachers or ministers.

Sixteen per cent of those children who were engaged in farming, had more than an eighth grade education, as compared with 35 per cent of those entering other occupations. The figure for non-farming laborers is 25 per cent, a somewhat higher figure than that for farmers of all classes. Those who went into farming had a lower average for "grade in school finished" than did those who went into other occupations. (Apparently this was largely due to the belief prevalent in these farming communities, that the farm boy's first duty is to the family. Thus despite the hardship it may work on him later in life, he is taken from school and put to work on the farm to save the expense of hired help. Thus handicapped the farm boy with less than eighth grade education very often remains

on the farm because he has had little opportunity to know of the possibilities of other work or to equip himself for it. Another explanation of this difference in training between those farming and those entering other occupations may be that those entering other occupations have left the farms in recent years. Since educational standards are now higher they have more training. Further study will enable us to ascertain the possibility of this condition affecting our results.

Table XXV. Status of Grown Daughters Who Had Started for Themselves.

Item	Total		Union		Non-Union	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Total	317	100	111	100	206	100
Married	272	86	95	86	177	86
Employed before marriage	38	12	16	14	22	11
Employed after marriage	3	0.9	2	1.8	2	1
Homemakers only	269	84.8	93	83.7	176	85.4
Unmarried	45	14	16	14	29	14

Of the 317 grown daughters who had started life for themselves previous to the survey, 86 per cent were married, the proportion being the same for each area. Twenty-six per cent of the total had some occupation other than that of homemaker. Nearly half of these had subsequently married. Only four of these cases, two of whom were teachers, continued to work at her occupation after marriage.

The range of occupations followed by the daughters who worked was not wide. Three-fourths of them were to be found in the five occupations, teaching, domestic service, factory labor, nursing and stenography. The first two included more than half of the cases.

Table XXVI. Occupation of Husbands of Married Daughters.

Occupation of Husband	Total		Union		Van Wert	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Total - Married	272	100	95	100	177	100
Occupation Unknown	24	9	8	8	16	9
Occupation known	248	100	87	100	161	100
Farmer	126	51	54	62	72	45
Laborer	81	32	24	28	57	36
Skilled	27	11	7	8	20	13
All Other	54	21	17	20	37	23
Entrepreneur	14	6	4	5	10	6
Professional	13	5	3	3	10	6
Clerical	7	3	2	2	5	3
Salesman	7	3	0	0	7	4

Table XXVI indicates the occupational groups into which these grown daughters married. There appears to be no marked tendency for country girls to marry above their social station. In the Union area 90 per cent and in the Van Wert area 81 per cent married either farmers or laborers. The figures indicate a noticeable tendency in the Van Wert area for girls to marry outside the farm group oftener than in the Union area.

IV. How the Population Decreases.

Decreases noted in the population of these two areas could have been the result of changes in the birth or death rates or may have been the result of emigration.

Table XXVII. Births, Deaths and Natural Increase: Both Areas, 1920 - 1926.

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	Total	Ave.
<u>Union County Area.</u>									
Births	12	23	18	21	27	15	23	139	19.9
Deaths	8	8	5	10	2	9	9	51	7.3
Natural Increase	4	15	13	11	25	6	14	88	12.6
<u>Van Wert Area</u>									
Births	38	32	27	26	35	27	21	206	29.4
Deaths	12	12	13	13	12	9	9	80	11.4
Natural Increase	24	20	14	13	23	18	12	126	18.0
<u>Both Areas</u>									
Births	50	55	45	47	62	42	44	345	49.3
Deaths	20	20	18	23	14	18	18	131	18.7
Natural Increase	30	35	27	24	48	24	26	214	30.6

The average rates for the two areas, 1920 - 1926, based on the estimated population for 1923 were:

	Union Area	Van Wert Area	Both Areas
Birth rate	22.3	24.2	23.4
Death rate	8.1	9.4	9.0
Natural increase rate	14.2	14.8	14.4

As will be seen from the above table, no significant changes in the rate of birth, death or natural increase, are discernable. The numbers are rather small and thus yearly rates based upon them fluctuate violently. It would seem that the changes in population during the past decade or two were due to factors other than the rate of natural increase of persons in the area.

That a measure might be obtained of the amount and kind of migration a check was made in each area of all persons who had entered the area and all persons who had left the area during the past two years. The number of families moving into the areas practically replaced the loss in population caused by the emigration of families from the areas. In like manner the number of persons lost by the population by death was more than replaced by the births (Table XXVII) that occurred during the period. A careful check of all the possible sources of

emigration and immigration leads us to the conclusion that any loss in population that these areas have suffered was due almost entirely to the increased rate of migration of the children born in the areas. This migration was most pronounced in the families of the non-farming groups.

A much larger percentage of the owners' children chose farming as an occupation than was the case in any other group. Since it has been shown (Table XX that most of those children who chose farming as their occupation lived near the parental home, it follows that a much larger percentage of the owners' children remained near home, (usually in the area) than the children of any other group.

Table XXVIII. Occupation of Children Who Had Started for Themselves; by Occupation of Parents, by Sex.

Occupation of Parents	Percentage of children in farming and in other occupations					
	Farming			Other Occupations		
	Union	Van Wert	Both	Union	Van Wert	Both
Male						
Total	48	40	43	52	60	57
Farmer	57	46	50	43	54	50
Owner	59	48	52	41	52	48
Renter	25	21	22	75	79	78
All Other	15	10	12	85	90	88
Female						
Total	48	33	38	52	67	62
Farmer	49	36	40	51	64	60
Owner	51	37	42	49	63	58
Renter	17	31	28	83	69	72
All Other	45	9	27	55	91	73

Forty-three per cent of the males and 38 per cent of the females born to the families in the area were engaged in farming. A higher percentage of Union county children stayed on the farm than was the case in Van Wert county. It is interesting to note that the percentage of males and females who stayed on the farm was identical in the Union area.

The farm family in Ohio has been decreasing in size, according to figures of the Bureau of the Census. In 1910* the average size for farm families in Ohio was 4.6 persons; in 1920, 4.4 persons and in 1925 it had decreased to 4.2 persons. This decrease in average size of farm family is probably due in part at least to a decrease in the birth rate. It may possibly be due in part to an increase in the proportion of grown children who fail to establish families in the areas thus causing shift toward a regressive type of population; also, possibly grown children are leaving home at an earlier age than formerly.

Farm birth rates are not available for this report. Table XXIX gives some pertinent information on the matter of number of births per mother in two generations of the same group, however.

Table XXIX. Number of Children Born to Families in Which the Mothers were 45 Years of Age and Over and Both Parents Living, Compared with the Number of Children Born in the Maternal and Paternal Families: Van Wert Area.

	Present Family	Maternal Family	Paternal Family
Number mothers	87	87	87
Number children born	442	639	666
Average number children per mother	5.1	7.2	7.7

The 87 mothers gave birth on an average, to 5.1 children as compared with 7.4 children for their mothers. The number for the paternal family is 7.7. The difference between the number of children on the maternal and paternal sides is a difference within the limits of the error of sampling. Thus the mothers of the present generation gave birth on the average, to two less children than their mothers. This is a significant difference which cannot be attributed to error of sampling. If any error occurs in this figure it will tend to make this difference smaller than it should be, since there is less chance of a mother failing to report

*Estimated by assuming that 26 per cent of the population of Ohio in 1910 was farm population.

to the investigator one of her own children, than that she may fail to report one of her own brothers or sisters that may have died in infancy.

In addition to the factors mentioned many others probably affect the movement of farm population. Some of these, such as income and standard of living of the families, for example, are not treated here except in a general way. These items will be considered in later reports of these studies.

Differences in the origin of people has its effect on migration because of the different types of culture involved. The Union area was settled chiefly by German people. Among these people the dual patriarchal family was still in force. The father was usually final authority as to what his children should do, subservient in his opinions only to his church. His children were in many cases sent to a parochial school where they were taught both English and German. German, however, was the language spoken in the home. Under these conditions the child learned to speak English very poorly and when he entered high school he was handicapped severely by his limited knowledge of the language that was used there. Many of the children were taken from school when they had finished the work that the parochial school offered, which was about sixth grade. Under these conditions the children from this area stayed on the farm in a greater number of cases than in the Van Wert area where these restraints were pretty largely absent. The people in the Union area had been largely endogamous, marriage outside the church being frowned upon. In this way they had kept their traditions longer, and had remained essentially an agricultural people. Recently marriage had begun to occur with families of other religious beliefs, the compulsory school attendance laws had gotten children into high schools who otherwise would have stayed at home to work on the farm, with the result that the children born in the area were migrating to other localities at an increasing rate. With the present type of agriculture, present standards of living cannot be maintained on farms much smaller

than existed in the area. Since the father could not divide his farm among his sons, giving each a farm as had been the practice in the past, he had allowed them to go into other occupations with his tacit approval. The effects of these factors are seen in the increased rate of migration since 1920.

Other factors aided the changes that had taken place. Many of the young men from the area fought in the late War. Their experiences during their period of enlistment gave to many their first glimpse of the world that existed outside their home county or state. This enlarged view of the possible fields of endeavor coupled with the unprofitableness of farming in the period following the War had its effect upon farm populations in general.

The Van Wert area differed from the Union area in that the group was more heterogeneous with respect to church affiliation, origin of the people and age of the area agriculturally. Union county was settled early in the history of Ohio, while the Van Wert area had but 117 people in it in 1840. No strong community organization existed in the Van Wert area. Church membership was not the rule, as in Union, though a number of religious sects claimed a membership that did not appear to exist. While the farm population of the Union area has been fairly constant since 1900, the Van Wert area has lost heavily. (Table I). The advent of modern farm machinery has hastened the movement from country to city. On many of the large level farms in this section one man can now do the labor that formerly required several men. Many adjustments of population have been taking place coincident with these changes in farming methods.

V. Summary.

The sample areas selected for this study lie in the agricultural region of northwestern Ohio; both have a general type of farming with corn, hogs and small grains (wheat or oats) their chief source of income. Dairying is on the increase in both areas. The people in the areas are largely of German descent,

the Union area being much more homogeneous in this respect. The Union area had an almost stationary population from 1880 to 1920. Since 1920 the figures show a marked decrease for the area. The Van Wert area reached its high point of population in 1890 and has been losing at an increasing rate ever since.

Eighty-one per cent of the open country population of the Union area was farm population compared with 86 per cent for the Van Wert area. More farm laborer families were found in the Union area thus accounting for the smaller percentage of farm population there. (Farm population includes only those families that are operating farms as owners, renters or managers.) Many of the farm laborers in the Union area were sons of the farm owners and will in time inherit the farms on which they are working.

The open country population of these areas has, in the past 50 years, been recruited largely from persons born in the same or nearby townships, chiefly from the families of farm owners. More than three-fourths of the heads of families were natives of the county in which they now live, previous to their marriage. A larger percentage of the farmers than of the non-farmer group were living in the county of which they were residents at the time of marriage. This figure was higher for owners than for renters; higher for males than for females, and higher in the Union area than in the Van Wert area. About 60 per cent of the male and 50 per cent of the female heads of families were living in the same township as at the time of their marriage. The percentage rank by areas and occupation was the same as for those living in the same county. It is interesting to note that those children who had left home and had chosen farming as their occupation were, in 80 per cent of the cases, living within 10 miles of the parental home.

Farm families, as a rule, were more stationary than non-farmers. Eighty-seven per cent of the owners and 76 per cent of the renters had always lived in the same county, with but 71 per cent for the other groups. Twenty per cent more

of the farmers in the Union area than in the Van Wert area had always lived in the same township. Eighty per cent of the owners in the Union area had always farmed in the same township.

Farm owners averaged about 30 years of age while renters averaged about 37 years. There were no significant differences in the ages of owners in the two areas; the renters in the Union area averaged almost 5 years younger than the renters in the Van Wert area. This difference is accounted for by the predominance of owner's sons among the renting class in the Union area. In the Van Wert area were found many older renters who did not expect to own farms.

The population of the Union area was of the stationary type while that of the Van Wert area was of the secessive type, i.e., while it had a birth rate sufficient to insure a steadily increasing population, it was losing population due to excessive migration of persons between the ages of 15 and 50 years. Greater losses due to emigration were found in the non-farmer group than in the farmer group.

Greater relative numbers of children 18 years of age and over were found living with their parents in the Union area than in the Van Wert area. Likewise the median age at marriage for males in the Van Wert area, was one year less than for the Union area, while for females it was seven-tenths of a year less. These differences appear to be due largely to the difference in family organization in the two areas. The Union area had consistently, a more closely knit family organization than the Van Wert area. One of the chief explanations of this difference is found in the relatively greater homogeneity of the Union area in respect to origin, language and religious belief. This in turn has enabled a strong church and parochial system to be built up in the Union area. Thus the children have been early impressed by the teachings of the family and of the church which have favored less freedom of marriage and migration, than is to be found in the Van Wert area.

Fifty-eight per cent of the children of the Union area who had started in life for themselves were living in the open country as compared with 46 per cent for the Van Wert area. Forty-eight per cent of those who had started for themselves in the Union area and 37 per cent of those in the Van Wert area were engaged in farming. Sixty-three per cent of those who had started for themselves in the Union area and 57 per cent in the Van Wert area, were living within 10 miles of their parents. The percentage living within 20 miles of their parental home was 80 and 63 respectively. With few exceptions the children who went any distance over 20 miles from the parental home went into occupations other than farming. In fact 92 per cent of those who took up residence in the open country lived within 20 miles of the parental home. Between 80 and 85 per cent of those children living in the open country were on farms. Thus it was found that the Union area which had the larger percentage of the children who had started for themselves living near the parental home, had also the larger percentage engaged in farming.

Most of the heads of families in the two areas came from farm owner parents. Approximately 50 per cent of the owner's children who had started for themselves, had gone into farming as compared with 20 per cent or less for the children of other groups. Considering these figures in relation to the relative number of owner families and families of other occupations in the areas it follows that under the present type of movement more than 90 per cent of the next generation of dwellers in these areas will be the children of farm owners. (It has been pointed out previously that there was little immigration into these areas except from nearby farming groups.)

A half more of those children who had started for themselves with a year or more of high school training than those with no high school training left the farm for other occupations. Children who went into farming had on the average less formal education than those who worked as unskilled laborers. It was found,

however, that 75 per cent of those who had gone into occupations other than farming were laborers, 60 per cent being engaged in unskilled labor. Also, 83 per cent of those who stayed on the farm were operators (owners or renters) and 17 per cent farm laborers. Thus with more formal education than those who stayed on the farm those who migrated to non-agricultural occupations usually worked as unskilled laborers. So far as social status is concerned it would seem therefore that in more than half of the cases those who have left the farm have not bettered their conditions, for farm operators, as a group, certainly enjoy more social prestige in a rural community than the day laborer in the towns and cities. This is not to say that some of these laborers will not eventually climb to a higher social status than that of the farm operators.

Losses of population in these areas were due largely to the increased rate of migration of the children born on the farms. The rate of natural increase (surplus of births over deaths) was large enough to insure a growing population. Emigration of whole families from the area was compensated for by the immigration of other families to take over the houses or farms vacated by the emigrants. The Van Wert area was losing population at a higher rate than the Union area. Changes in birth rate had something to do with the loss of population. It was found in the Van Wert area that while on the average 87 married women 45 years of age and over (whose husbands were living) gave birth to 5 children, their mothers averaged 7 children or 2 more than their married daughters.

Chart I.

Open Country Population of Darby Township, Union County and of Liberty Township
Van Wert County, Ohio

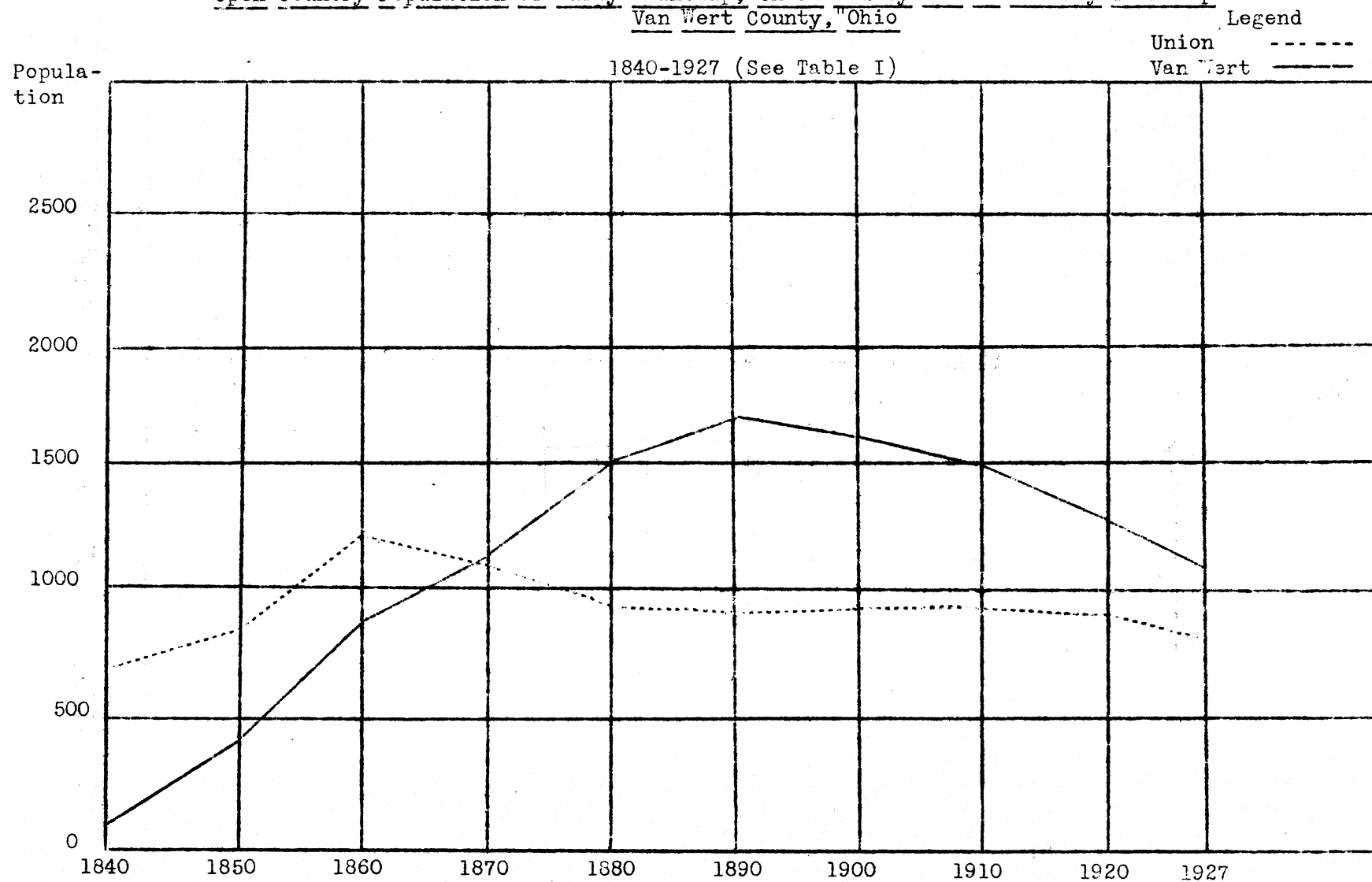


CHART II

Percentage Age Distribution by Sex, - Union County Area.

Age

85 and over

80 - 84

75 - 79

70 - 74

65 - 69

60 - 64

55 - 59

50 - 54

45 - 49

40 - 44

35 - 39

30 - 34

25 - 29

20 - 24

15 - 19

10 - 14

5 - 9

0 - 4

MALES

FEMALES

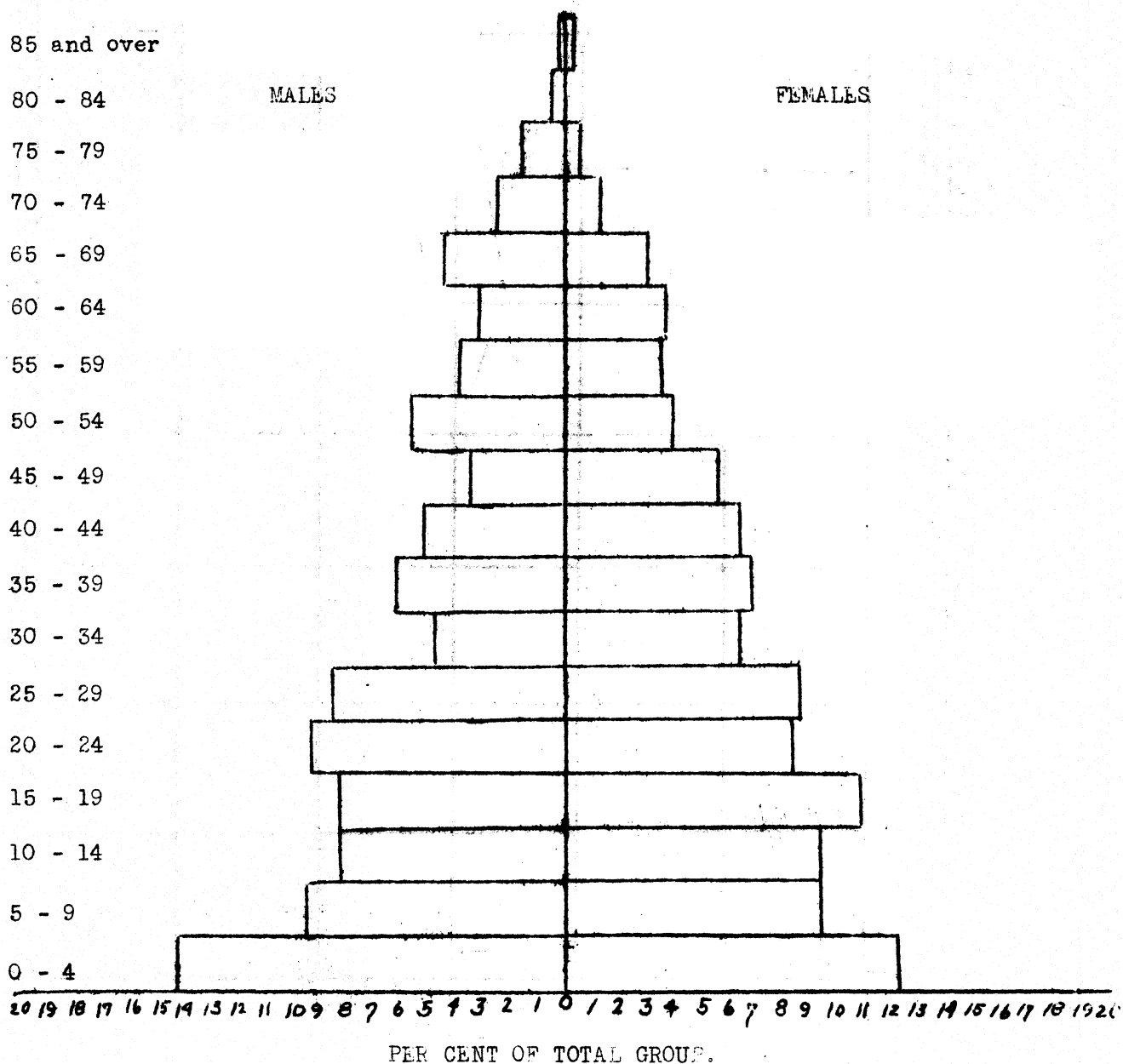


CHART III

Percentage Age Distribution by Sex, - Van Wert County Area.

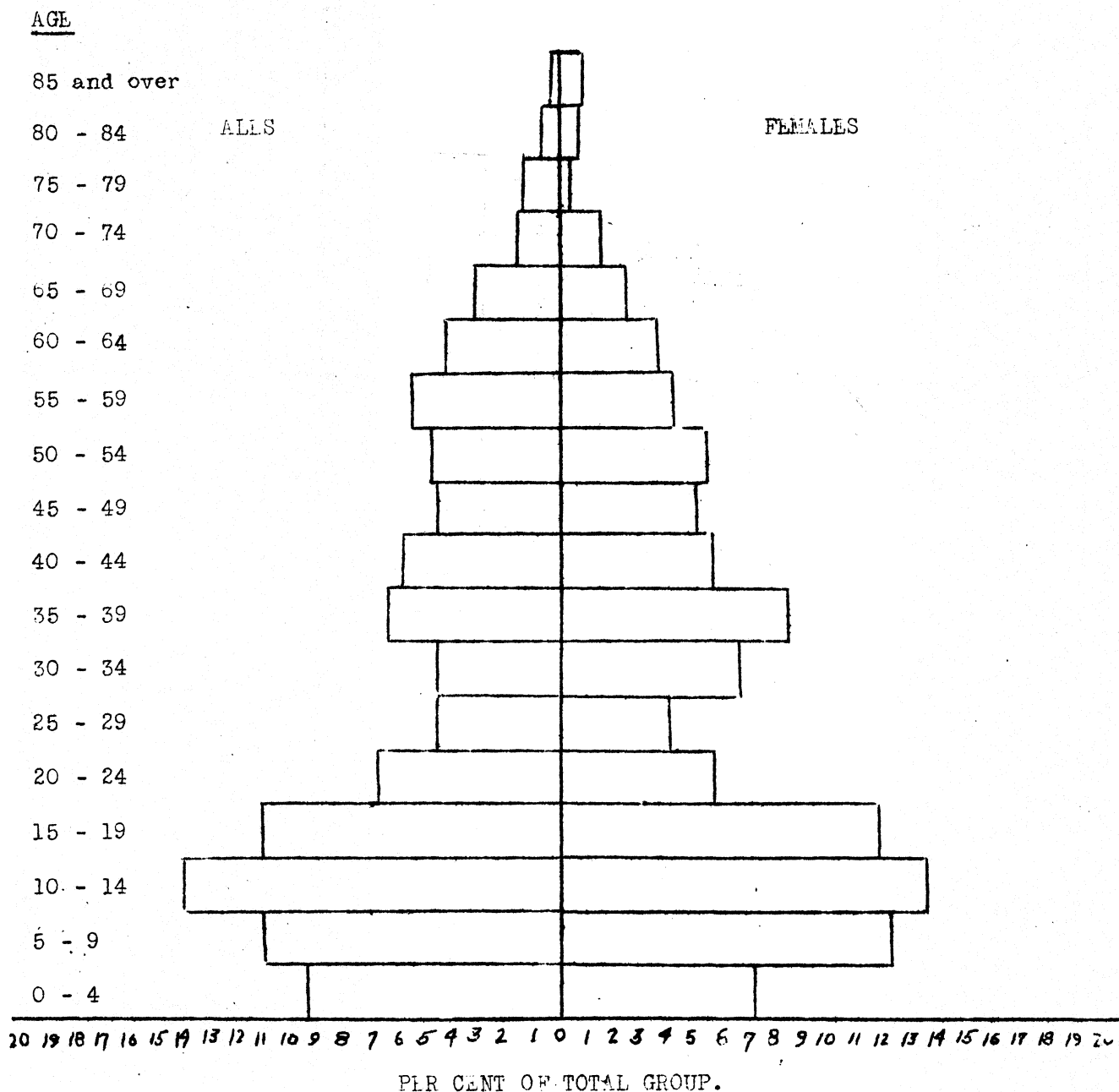


CHART IV.

Age Distribution, Union County

AGE

85 and over

MALES

FEMALES

80 - 84

75 - 79

70 - 74

65 - 69

60 - 64

55 - 59

50 - 54

45 - 49

40 - 44

35 - 39

30 - 34

25 - 29

20 - 24

15 - 19

10 - 14

5 - 9

0 - 4

--- Children who have
migrated from the
area

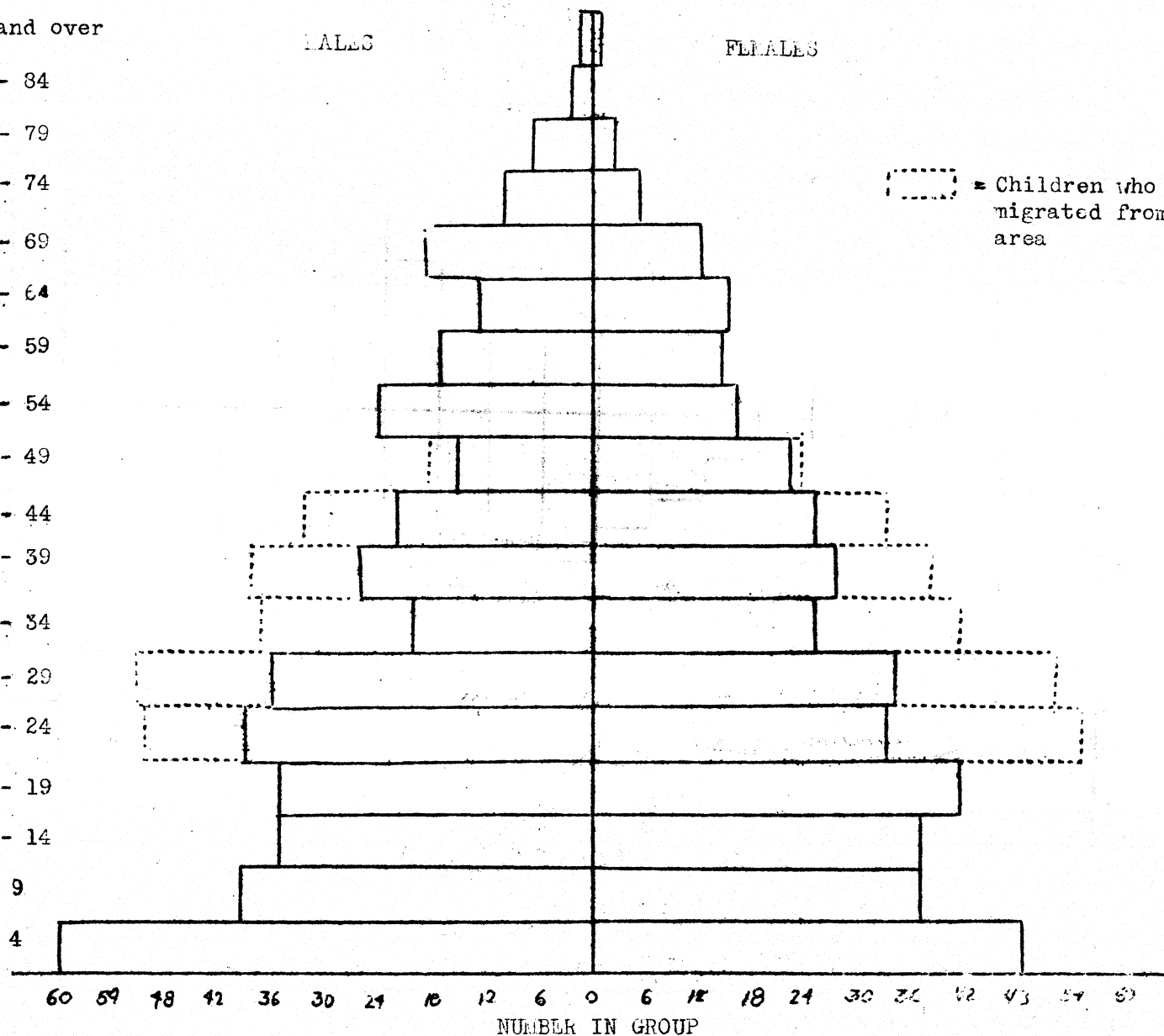


CHART V.

Age Distribution - Van Wert County

